



THE
EARLE
O F
STRAFFORDS
Speech on the Scaffold
before hee was beheaded
on Tower-hill,
May 12. 1641.

Printed 1641.



THE
EARLE OF
STRAFFORDS
Speech on the Scaffold.

A large, ornate initial letter 'M' in a Gothic script, decorated with intricate floral and foliate motifs, including tulips and acanthus leaves, set within a rectangular border.

MY L O R D Primate of Ireland, (and my Lords, and the rest of these Gentlemen) it is a very great comfort to me, to have your Lordship by mee this day in regard I have been known to you a long time; I should bee very glad to obtaine so much silence, as to bee heard a few words, but I doubt I shall not. My Lord I come hither by the good will and pleasure of

A 2

Almighty

Almighty God, to pay that last debt I owe to sinne, which is death, and by the blessing of that God to rise againe through the merits of Christ Jesus to eternall glory.

And hee being disturbed by the people, he said, *what is the matter*, and sat down in a chair; some replied, the souldiers kept most stirre, *If they, said he, would be quiet, all the rest would bee quiet.*

I wish I had been private, that I might have been heard: my Lord, if I might bee so much beholding to you that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very great courtie: my Lord I come hither to submit to that judgement which hath past against me, I do it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgivenesse that is not spoken from the teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart; I speak it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in mee arising to any creature. I thank God I may say truely, and my Conscience beares mee witnessse, that in all my seruices since I have had the honour to serve his Majestie in any employment I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall prosperitie of King and People; if it have

have been my hap to bee misconstered , it is the common portion of us all while wee are in this life , the righteous judgement is hereafter , here wee are subject to errour , and apt to bee mis-judged one of another : there is one thing I desire to cleere my self off , and I am very confident , I speake it with so much clearnesse , that I hope I shall have your Christian Charitie in the belief of it . I did alwayes ever think the Parliaments of *England* were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome , or any Nation lived under , and under **God** the meanes of making King and People happie , so farre have I been from being against Parliaments : For my death I here acquit all the World , and pray **God** heartily to forgive them ; and in particular , my **Lord** Primate I am very glad that his Majestie is pleased to con-
ceive mee , not meriting so severe , and hea-
vie a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence ; I am very glad and infinit-
ly rejoice in this mercy of his , and be-
seech **God** to turne it to him , that hee may finde mercie when hee hath most need of it ; I wish this Kingdome all the pros-
peritie and happinesse in the world : I did it li-
ving , and now dying it is my wish ; I doe
now

now professe it from my heart, and doe
most humblie recommend it unto every man
here, and wish every man to lay his hand
upon his heart, and consider seriously whe-
ther the beginning of the happiness of a
people should be written in letters of bloud,
I feare you are in a wrong way, and I de-
sire Almighty God that no one drop of
my bloud may rise up in judgement against
you.

(My Lord) I professe my self a true
and obedient Sonne to the Church of *Eng-*
land, to that Church wherein I was borne
and wherein I was bred; prosperity and hap-
piness be ever to it: and whereas it hath beeene
said that I have enclined to Popery, if it bee an
objection worth answering, let me say truely,
that from the time since I was one and tweantie
years of age. till this houre, now going upon
nine and fourty, I never had thought in my
heart to doubt of the truth of my Religion in
England: and never any had the boldnesse to
suggest to me the contrary, to the best of my
remembrance; and so being reconciled to the
mercies of Christ Jesus my Saviour, into
whose bosome I hope shortly to bee gathered
to enjoy those eternall happinesses that shall
never have end; I desire heartily the forgive-
nessse

nesse of every man, both for any rash or unadvised word or deed, and desire your prayers : And so my Lords, farewell , farewell all the things of this world ; Lord strengthen my faith, give me confidence and assurance in the merites of Christ Jesus. I desire you that you would bee silent, and joyne in prayers with me; and trust in God that we shall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the accomplishment of all happinesse, where every teare shall bee wiped from our eyes, and every sad thought from our hearts : And so God blesse this Kingdome, and Jesus have mercie upon my Soule.

FINIS
